ABSTRACT

Systems, methods and apparatuses are provided for allowing a user to supervise personal exposure to a program exhibited by a consumer electronics device, such as, e.g., a television system. The consumer electronics device includes a facial recognition system and media rating enforcement circuitry that analyzes a program signal and either blocks or passes the program signal based on certain content and viewer based criteria and also, in the alternative, time based criteria. In this connection, a user can program the enforcement circuitry with the content and viewer based criteria in the form of one or more viewing profiles comprising viewer specifications and content–based specifications associated with the viewer specifications, and, which specify a rating and/or a subject matter category. The enforcement circuitry receives one or more viewer indicators from a facial recognition system that are indicative of the viewers present in a viewing area and one or more content–based indicators, which are indicative of a rating and/or a subject matter category of the program. The enforcement circuitry compares the viewer indicators with the viewer specifications and then the content–based indicators with the content–based specifications. Based on this comparison, the enforcement circuitry either passes the program signal to an output device for transformation of the program signal into the program or blocks the program signal from being sent to the output device.